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a considerable increase each year from 1911 to 1917, there has been a sharp drop in recent years. What makes this change very significant is the fact that physicians are now reporting syphilis and its sequelæ more and more accurately and frankly on death certificates. The decline which has been registered has therefore been accomplished in spite of the better reporting. There is undoubtedly much less mortality from venereal disease than there was 10 years ago. The death rate seems to have reached a fairly stable figure at about 13 per 100,000, a new level from which may be measured the decline of the future experience for this disease.

The decline is most decided in the case of syphilis alone rather than for the other two diseases, which are late manifestations of syphilitic infection. A careful examination of the figures for age indicates, furthermore, that the difference between the rates for 1917 and for 1921 is chiefly accounted for by the lowering of the rates in the age period between 25 and 55 years. We may venture the suggestion that this improvement in the early and middle years of life is the result of increasing effectiveness in the treatment of syphilis. Possibly we may also give credit to the measures to control this disease initiated during the war by the several private agencies acting in cooperation with the Government. It would be very interesting to watch the figures for syphilis during the next few years to see whether similar or even more accentuated declines are continued.

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## **MORTALITY AND BIRTH RATES, FIRST QUARTER, 1922.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROVISIONAL FIGURES MADE BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.**

### **Provisional Mortality Figures.**

The Department of Commerce announces that provisional mortality figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census indicate higher death rates for the first quarter of 1922 than for the corresponding quarter of 1921. For the States compared, the death rate for the first quarter of 1922 was 13.7 against 12.6 for the first quarter of 1921. The highest mortality rate for the quarter is shown for the District of Columbia (17.6), and the lowest for Wyoming (9.6). These early figures forecast for the year 1922 a higher rate for the death registration area than the record low rate (11.7) for the year 1921.

*Death rates per 1,000 population, for certain States.*

(The 1922 figures are provisional.)

State.	Annual death rate per 1,000 population for—								
	1922				1921				
	The quarter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	The quarter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	The year.
Total—Areas shown for both years.....	13.7	12.9	14.2	14.0	12.6	12.6	12.8	12.4	11.4
California.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	14.4	14.9	14.6	13.8	13.2
Colorado.....	16.5	14.4	15.7	19.5	13.7	14.6	13.7	13.0	12.4
Connecticut.....	14.7	13.0	15.7	15.6	12.8	12.7	13.3	12.4	11.4
Delaware.....	15.4	13.5	17.7	15.2	15.3	15.1	16.0	14.9	13.1
District of Columbia.....	17.6	18.8	16.9	17.3	15.4	15.2	16.1	14.9	13.8
Florida.....	12.7	13.3	12.9	11.9	12.6	12.8	12.3	12.7	11.8
Georgia.....	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Idaho.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Illinois.....	12.3	12.2	12.9	12.0	12.3	12.4	12.7	11.9	11.1
Indiana.....	14.5	13.7	15.1	14.8	12.9	13.2	13.3	12.2	11.9
Kansas.....	13.2	12.0	14.2	13.5	11.2	11.5	11.3	10.8	10.2
Kentucky.....	11.9	11.7	12.7	11.4	11.2	11.4	11.1	11.1	10.5
Louisiana.....	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.9	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.0	7.5
Maine.....	16.8	16.0	17.8	16.7	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.0
Maryland.....	15.9	14.8	15.5	17.3	15.4	14.5	15.3	16.5	13.6
Massachusetts.....	15.4	13.6	16.3	16.3	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.9	12.2
Michigan.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	12.8	12.7	13.0	12.8	11.6
Minnesota.....	10.7	9.6	10.4	12.2	10.6	9.9	10.7	11.1	9.4
Mississippi.....	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.4	11.0	11.1
Missouri.....	13.6	12.4	14.3	14.2	11.7	12.2	11.7	11.2	10.8
Montana.....	10.2	8.0	9.2	13.3	9.4	9.6	9.4	9.2	8.2
Nebraska.....	11.2	10.5	10.9	12.2	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.3	9.2
New Hampshire.....	16.0	14.8	17.2	16.2	15.2	15.4	16.0	14.3	13.7
New Jersey.....	14.8	14.1	16.4	14.2	13.5	13.3	13.6	13.7	11.7
New York.....	15.7	14.4	16.9	15.9	14.2	14.0	14.4	14.2	12.3
North Carolina.....	10.8	11.7	11.2	9.5	11.2	11.6	11.2	10.9	11.3
Ohio.....	13.7	12.9	13.4	14.7	11.8	12.4	12.6	10.3	11.3
Oregon.....	13.8	11.8	14.9	14.8	11.1	10.8	11.1	11.4	10.4
Pennsylvania.....	14.8	13.7	15.4	15.5	14.5	14.1	14.9	14.5	12.4
Rhode Island.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	14.3	14.1	14.4	14.4	12.6
South Carolina.....	12.0	12.8	12.2	11.1	11.4	11.2	11.6	11.4	11.9
Tennessee.....	12.1	11.9	12.6	11.9	11.1	11.2	11.5	10.6	10.7
Utah.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	12.2	12.5	13.1	11.2	10.4
Vermont.....	16.1	14.4	17.6	16.4	15.6	14.6	16.9	15.3	14.2
Virginia.....	13.6	12.9	14.0	13.9	13.1	13.4	13.3	12.7	12.2
Washington.....	11.7	10.7	13.4	11.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.5
Wisconsin.....	11.6	11.0	11.4	12.3	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.5	10.3
Wyoming.....	9.6	8.6	10.7	9.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

<sup>1</sup> Transcripts not received for the quarter.<sup>2</sup> Admitted to registration area in 1922.**Provisional Birth Figures.**

Provisional birth figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census for the first quarter of 1922 indicate lower birth rates for that quarter than for the corresponding quarter of 1921. For the States compared, the total birth rate for the first quarter was 23.3 in 1922 against 25.3 in 1921. The highest birth rate for the quarter (29.2) is shown for North Carolina, and the lowest (16.5) for the State of Washington. Higher rates will be necessary for the remaining months of the year if the 1922 rate is to equal the 1921 rate for the birth registration area, 24.3.

*Birth rates per 1,000 population, for certain States.*

(The 1922 figures are provisional.)

	Annual birth rate per 1,000 population for—								
	1922				1921				
	The quarter.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	The quarter.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	The year.
Total—Areas shown for both years .....	23.3	23.7	23.9	22.4	25.3	24.6	25.6	25.9	24.6
California.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	20.1	19.8	20.0	20.5	20.2
Connecticut.....	22.8	23.3	22.7	22.3	24.7	24.5	25.1	24.6	24.0
Delaware.....	21.2	22.4	22.5	18.7	23.6	24.0	23.6	23.2	22.4
District of Columbia.....	21.9	21.6	21.0	22.9	21.6	21.6	22.9	20.4	20.5
Indiana.....	22.4	22.6	22.9	21.8	23.4	22.7	24.2	23.6	23.0
Kansas.....	20.1	22.4	21.8	16.2	24.2	24.2	24.6	24.0	23.3
Kentucky.....	24.0	25.6	25.1	21.5	29.8	27.2	30.4	31.8	27.6
Maine.....	23.0	21.2	24.1	23.9	23.4	21.8	23.6	24.8	22.9
Maryland.....	23.9	24.3	24.0	23.5	26.0	26.0	26.6	25.6	25.1
Massachusetts.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	23.9	23.3	23.8	24.6	23.5
Michigan.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	25.9	24.8	26.3	26.8	25.3
Minnesota.....	23.8	24.0	23.7	23.9	24.4	23.2	24.6	25.4	23.6
Mississippi.....	22.8	23.7	22.9	21.9	23.7	26.4	27.1	26.8	25.8
Montana.....	19.2	19.2	19.5	19.0	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Nebraska.....	24.0	23.6	25.0	23.4	25.0	24.7	24.7	25.7	24.5
New Hampshire.....	21.0	20.6	22.3	20.1	23.1	22.7	22.7	24.0	22.8
New Jersey.....	23.3	23.6	23.9	22.4	24.6	24.4	24.8	24.7	24.1
New York.....	22.1	22.5	22.6	21.2	23.4	22.9	23.4	23.9	22.7
North Carolina.....	29.2	29.8	29.3	28.6	33.8	32.1	34.3	35.1	33.8
Ohio.....	21.3	21.3	22.7	20.0	22.6	22.2	22.8	22.8	21.9
Oregon.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	20.4	20.1	20.2	20.8	19.3
Pennsylvania.....	25.5	25.5	26.2	24.8	26.7	26.4	26.8	27.1	25.8
Rhode Island.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	22.9	21.5	24.0	23.5	23.6
South Carolina.....	25.8	26.4	26.0	25.1	28.4	27.0	28.4	29.8	29.5
Utah.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	32.6	31.2	32.6	34.0	31.6
Vermont.....	19.4	19.5	20.0	18.8	22.8	22.1	22.1	24.2	22.5
Virginia.....	28.2	28.3	28.8	27.6	30.3	28.5	30.9	31.6	29.9
Washington.....	16.5	18.8	17.4	13.5	20.8	20.2	21.4	21.0	19.6
Wisconsin.....	20.7	20.9	21.1	20.1	24.1	22.5	24.7	25.2	23.0
Wyoming.....	25.9	26.4	24.1	27.0	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

<sup>1</sup> Transcripts not received for the quarter.<sup>2</sup> Not added to the registration area until a later date.**DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 26, 1922.**

*Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended August 26, 1922, and corresponding week 1921. (From the Weekly Health Index, August 29, 1922, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)*

	Week ended Aug. 26, 1922.	Corresponding week 1921.
Policies in force.....	49, 858, 834	46, 911, 096
Number of death claims.....	7, 691	7, 069
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate.....	8.0	7.9